

REMARKS

Introduction

Applicants note with appreciation the courtesies extended by Examiner McKinley and Examiner Newhouse in the interview of November 29, 2006.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 11-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 have been cancelled, and new claims 11-24 have been added. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

In the interview of November 29, 2006, Applicants' representative pointed out that the Examiner had not initialed next to the reference: TORU et al., OIL FILLER PORT CAP COVER, published July 23, 2002, which was cited in an IDS filed on June 9, 2005. After acknowledging that Applicants had in fact submitted this reference in the IDS on June 9, 2005, the Examiner indicated that he had previously considered this reference and had inadvertently omitted to initial this reference on the form PTO 1449. See Interview Summary from the interview with Examiner McKinley and Examiner Newhouse.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a new copy of the PTO 1449 form having the abovementioned reference properly initialed with the next Office Action.

New Claims 11-24

New claims 11-24 have been added to reflect points discussed in the interview of November 29, 2006. In the interview, the Examiner indicated that the present invention is defined over Griffin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,508,374) by (1) projections being integrally formed in one piece with the top/cap and (2) the structural features of the gas

cap as having a closed top surface and a cylindrical gripping portion extending therefrom.
See Interview Summary from the interview with Examiner McKinley and Examiner Newhouse.

Based upon these distinctions discussed in the interview and other structural considerations of the present invention, Applicants have added new independent claims 11, 23, and 24 and dependent claims 12-22, which are each patentably distinct from Griffin et al.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

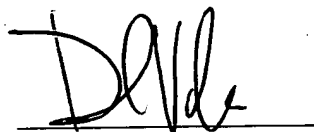
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account debit Account 50-0548.

Respectfully submitted,



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